



T. M.



Here, in all well-governed Kingdomes, Common-wealthes, Cities, and Countries, care hath ever bene duly had and taken, and commands strictly given in publique and in private, That Breade, Meats, and Drinckes of all sorts, to be solde, vttered, or put to sale, for the sustenance of mankind, should bee good, Sweete, sound, and Wholesome for mans body: And that iust Assize, Weight, & Measure, should be deliuered to all persons, vpon paines, penalties, and punishments, to bee inflicted vppon the Offenders, according to the qualities of their offences.

Now therefore, the Right honorable Sir Thomas Middleton, Knight, Lord Mayor of this the Kings Highnes City of London, & his right Worshipful Brethren the Aldermen of the same, considering the great Assemble of Lords Spirituall and Temporall, & Commons at this time of the high Court of Parliament, and the repayre hither of so many others from many parts of this realme, who are to haue their prouision for their dyet in a great part from this Cittie, and purposing as much as in them shall lye, duely to prouide that they bee well serued of Victuall, both in respect of the goodnesse of the same, and of iust assize, weight, and measure, do heereby straitly Charge and Command, That no Baker, Wine-seller, Brewer, Butcher, Poultier, Fishmonger, Inholder, Cooke, Alehouse-keeper, or any other Victualler, or other person or persons Whatsoever, doe at any time hereafter, sell, vtter, or put to sale, any Bread, Wine, Ale, Beere, Flesh, Fish, or any other Victuall Whatsoever within the saide City or Liberties of the same, but such onely as shall be good, Sweet, sound, and Wholesome for mans body, vpon paine of imprisonment, and such further punishment as the qualities of their seuerall offences shall deserue, which shall with all severity be executed against them, and euery of them.

And do further heereby straitly Charge and Command, That no Baker, or any other person Whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter, sell, vtter, or put to sale, any Breade vsuallie called & sold for Wheaten bread, but that the peny loafe containe the Assize of xi. Ounces Troy Waight at the least, which is th'assize now appointed for the same, & other loaves of that kind of Bread after that Rate, Nor any bread vsuallie called & sold for White bread, but that the peny loafe containe th' Assize of seven ounces, & one quarter of an ounce troy Waight at the least, which is th'assize now appointed for the same, and other loaves of that kind of bread after that rate. And that no Inholder, Cooke, Tipler, Ale-house-keeper, or other person Whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter, sell, vtter, or put to sale, any Beere or Ale otherwise then by measures, sealed by the Officer thereunto duely appointed. And that none of them sell any of the best sort of Ale or beere

at any higher rate or price, then a penie for a full Ale quart, nor any of the smaller sorte of Ale or beere at any higher rate or price, then a halfe peny for a full Ale quart.

And forasmuch as there hath bene verie great spoyle and waste of Wheate and Barley, by reason of the great abuse in brewing strong and headie Beere and Ale : and besides the abuse in drunkenness and drinking vnmeasurably, and in so great excesse, and in exceedingly wasting of Gods blessings, without care or conscience, many poore families, men, women, and children, haue bene and dayly are vtterly ouerthrowne, and forced either to liue by begging, or sterue for want, by reason that the insatiable desire of manie of the poorer sorte of householders, to those strong Drinckes is such, and their custome in committing that sin so grounded, as that al they can get by their labour, is hardly sufficient to satisfie their owne appetite therein, which they will (sometimes beyond their ability) satisfie, though their Wines and Children want at home.

And Where the vtterance of those Drinckes haue bene so great, as Inholders, Cookes, and other Victuallers, haue had in their sellers and other places of Store, some one man a hundred, some two hundred, and some three hundred barrells at one time, The saide Lord Maior and Aldermen therefore, do heereby straitly Charge and Command, That no Inholder, Cooke, Ale-house-keeper, or other Victualler whatsoeuer, shall at any time after publication of this Proclamation, receiue any beere or Ale into his or her house, Seller, or other place, untill all the barrells of beere and Ale which he or she hath, shall be drawne out, spent, and reduced to the number of twenty : and that after that time, he or shee, shall not haue, retaine, or keep in his or her house, seller, or other place, at any one time, aboue the number of twenty barrells: and that neither they nor any of them, shall at any time afterwarde, receiue, retaine, or keepe any beere or Ale in anie greater Vessels then barrells onely.

And Where Within the saide Citie and Liberties, many Freemen of the company of Cooks, vnder pretence of selling beere and ale with their meates, by colour of their Charters and Ordinances, do keepe common Alehouses, and sell Ale and beere both within their houses, and deliuer the same out also, without selling any meate therewith, and are not thereunto licensed in due forme of Law, The saide Lord Maior and Aldermen, doo heereby straitly Charge and Command, all Freemen of the saide Company of Cookes, That they do not at any time hereafter, directly or indirectly, sell, vtter, or put to sale, any beere or Ale out of their houses, nor in theyr houses, otherwise then with their meate.

And Where there haue bene, and dayly are vsed great deceipts in sale of horsemeat, as well Hay and Dates, as horse-breade within the sayde Citie and Liberties thereof. For redresse and reformation therein, the saide Lord Maior and Aldermen, doe heereby straightlie Charge and Commaund, all Inholders, keepers of Stables and Hoasteries, and all and euerie other person and persons whatsoeuer, That neither they, nor any of them, do at any time after the publication hereof, sell, vtter, or put to sale, any horse-bread, at any other Rates and Prices, then three Loanes weighing one and twenty Dunces Troy waight for a penne, nor any other then such as shall be well baked, and made of good Beanes, Branne, and woorking Beale well blended. Nor any Dates at any higher Rate or price then foure pence halfe-peny for a pecke: & after that Rate for greater and lesser measures. Nor any Hay at any higher rate or price then a bottell of Hay weighing two pounds & a halfe for a halfe-penie, and after that Rate for greater and lesser quantitie or weight. Nor shall not take any more or greater price then six pence day and night for Horses, Mares, or Geldings, set at Riuerie within this Citie, or the Liberties thereof, and so after the same Rate.

And doe also heereby Charge and Commaunde, all Inholders, Ale-house-keepers, and others, vsually receyuing lodgers, who shall receiue any person or persons to lodge in any of their houses, that they and euery of them, do once euery day from time to time, deliuer to the Alderman of the Ward, or his Deputy, or to the Constable of the Precinct, where such Inholder, Ale-housekeeper, or other person shall dwell, in writing, the Names, Surnames, & additions of dwelling place and profession of such persons, as they or any of them, shall receiue to lodge, & likewise of the time of their departure, to the end, the saide Lord Maior, and his brethren the Aldermen, may from time to time be truly informed thereof, and persons dangerous to the King & State, may the more easily be discovered.

And do heereby further Charge and Commaund, That all Constables within the sayde Citie and the Liberties thereof, hold their Watches from nine of the Clocke in the Evening, untill five of the Clocke in the Morning : and that they suffer no person to passe thorough any of the Streetes or lanes of this Citie, betwixt the houres aforesaide, vntlesse hee or shee can giue good account of lawfull and honest occasion so to do. And such as cannot, they shall commit to Prison, in one of the Compters of this Citie, or to some other prison (if neede require) and certifie the Lord Maior, (or some other Justice of peace within this Citty) thereof, the next morning. And that if the sayde Constables, or any of them, vpon any sodaine occasion shall find cause, they shall make search in any Inne, Victualling house, or other place, suspected to harbour lewd, idle, ydle, or suspected people : and if they shall finde any such, they shall commit them to prison, there to remaine, and certifie the sayde Lord Maior, or some other of the sayde Justices thereof, the next morning, to the end, such order may bee taken for their punishment, or deliuerie as shall be meete.

And, Where the sayde Lord Maior, With the aduise of his sayde Brethren, Worthie after his entrance into the Office of Maioralty of the sayde Citie, did for the Advancement of the honour of GOD, and for the Weale of the Kings Maiesties Subiects, Inhabitants within the sayde Citie, and the Liberties of the same, and of others repaying to the same from foraigne parts, giue publicke notice and Warning by Proclamation of his Lordshippes purpose, to endeavour and speede the due execution of sundrie Actes and Ordinances, and did thereby also, giue strait Charge and Commaund for due Observation thereof : as also, touching Forrestallers and Regrators, Ale-house-keepers, Victuallers, and others. Now, forasmuch as there hath not been that due regarde had of the observation of the sayde Ordinances and Statutes, concerning the offences aforesaide, nor of the sayde publicke Warning, Charge and Commaund giuen as aforesaide, which ought to haue bene, The sayde Lord Maior and Aldermen, doe now therefore heereby, giue speciall Charge and Commandement to all the Inquests of Wardmore of this Citie, and the liberties thereof, and to all Constables, Beadles, and other Officers, and to all Informers and other persons whatsoever, to whom it shall, or may in any wise appertain, that they and euerie of them, do make speciall, diligent search, and diligent examination, of all such Forrestallers, Regrators, and others : as also of all such other offenders, who have bene, or shall be committed against the true meaning of the sayde Statutes, Actes, and Ordinances, or any of them, or against the true meaning of any Charge or Commaund heereby giuen, to the end, the seuerall Offenders may bee duly punished, and that the paines, penalties, and forfeitures may be duly leauied : wherein such as shall be carefull and painefull to further and speede due execution in this behalfe, shall out of the penalties and forfeitures, be (for theyr care and paines therein to be taken) sufficiently recompenced and rewarded.

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✠ God saue the King. ✠